

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03828 051658Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SAA-02 NEAE-00 SSM-03 HA-05
EUR-12 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-12 /095 W

-----022596 051659Z /46

O R 051618Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8643
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, SY, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANESE RIGHTIST FIGHT WITH SYRIAN ADF CHARACTERIZED AS
PART OF A GRAND CONSPIRACY

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: ALL SYRIAN PAPERS JULY 5 LEAD WITH
LEBANESE PM AL-HOSS REMARKS CONFIRMING THE NEED FOR A CONTINUING
SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON AND POINTING OUT THAT SYRIANS ENTERED
LEBANON AT THE REQUEST OF THE LEGITIMATE LEBANESE AUTHORITY.
AL-BAATH TRUMPETS: "AL-HOSS: LEBANON IS IN NEED OF ADF
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AND ITS CONTINUATION IS A NATIONAL NECESSITY. CHAMOUN OR
ANYONE ELSE IS NOT ENTITLED TO REPLACE THE STATE. LEBANESE
PARTIES AND PERSONAGES COMMEND THE ADF ROLE."

2. OFFICIALLY-INSPIRED FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL IN AL-BAATH BY
EDITOR YASSER AL-FARRA CONDEMNS PHALANGE-CHAMOUNIST
ACTIONS AS PART OF A GRAND CONSPIRACY TO DISTRACT SYRIA

WHILE SEPARATE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE IS CONCLUDED UNDER US AUSPICES. HE ASSERTS: "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WHAT HAS BEEN DONE BY THE PHALANGIST AND THE LIBERAL MILITIAMEN... IS TO A LARGE DEGREE ASSOCIATED WITH A MAJOR CONSPIRACY WHICH IS BEING HATCHED AGAINST SYRIA." HE PIOUSLY DECLARES THAT SYRIA WANTS NOTHING FROM LEBANON "OTHER THAN FOR HER WOUNDS TO HEAL AND HER HEALTH TO RECOVER SO THAT ALL SECTS WILL LIVE TOGETHER AS BROTHERS. WE WANT LEBANON STRONG AND UNITED...WE HAVE ANNOUNCED TIME AND AGAIN THAT WE WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF LEBANON BECAUSE THEY ALONE CONCERN THE LEBANESE PEOPLE. OUR INTERFERENCE WILL BE LIMITED TO WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED UPON WITH THE LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY..."

3. HE AFFIRMS THAT SYRIA HAS ACTED ON THE BASIS OF PRINCIPLE IN LEBANON AND HAS AVOIDED TAKING SIDES WITH ANY GROUP OR PARTY. HE ACCUSES THE PHALANGE AND CHAMOUNISTS OF TRYING "TO PUSH US INTO TAKING POSITIONS CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE INITIATIVE (INTERVENTION) IN ORDER THAT WE TAKE SIDES WITH ONE OR ANOTHER GROUP. WHEN THEY FOUND US FIRM AND UNWILLING TO CHANGE OUR NEUTRAL STAND, THEY ACCUSED US OF BEING BIASED ON THE SIDE OF THE OTHER PARTY."

4. HE CONCLUDES BY DECLARING THAT "ALL SUCH CONSPIRACIES AND DESIGNS SHALL BE BROKEN UPON THE ROCK OF OUR STEADFAST-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NESS, FIRMNESS AND UNITY...OUR TROOPS SHALL CONTINUE TO CONFRONT THESE CONSPIRACIES HEROICALLY...THEY SHALL NOT PERMIT THE PHALANGISTS AND THE LIBERALS TO ACHIEVE THEIR PETTY ENDS, AND THEY WILL MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF ANYONE WHO CONSPIRES AGAINST THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR PEOPLE."

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: IN PREVIOUS SYRO-LEBANESE RIGHTIST CLASHES, SYRIAN PRESS HAS GENERALLY AVOIDED NAMING NAMES. NO SUCH RESTRAINT HAS BEEN EVIDENCED SINCE THE MOST RECENT ROUND OF FIGHTING COMMENCED. NEVERTHELESS, SYRIAN PRESS IS CAPABLE OF CONSIDERABLY TOUGHER INVECTIVE SUGGESTING THAT SYRIANS DO NOT YET WISH TO HAVE PUBLIC VIEW THIS AS BEGINNING OF ALL OUT SYRIAN PUSH AGAINST THE RIGHTIST MILITIAS.
PELLETREAU

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Disposition Reason:
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